



March 12, 2004

Providence man admits to heroin trafficking, firearms offenses

Ulises Matos, 37, of Providence, has pleaded guilty to federal heroin-trafficking and firearms offenses. Providence Police arrested Matos in December and seized narcotics, guns and \$73,725 from his apartment.

The Office of the United States Attorney announced the guilty plea, which Matos entered yesterday before U.S. District Court Judge Mary M. Lisi in U.S. District Court, Providence. Matos, of 104 Miner Street, is detained pending sentencing, which is scheduled for June 18.

At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Kenneth P. Madden said that, had the case gone to trial, the government would have proven that Providence Police narcotics detectives had been investigating Matos for suspected drug dealing. In November an undercover detective bought heroin from Matos in the parking lot of a fast food restaurant on Eddy Street.

Detectives then obtained a warrant for Matos' arrest and a search warrant for his house. On December 10, the undercover detective arranged to buy heroin buy from Matos at Gallup Street and Prairie Avenue. After the sale was made, detectives moved in and arrested Matos. A search of his house turned up 56 bags of heroin, trafficking material, a loaded .44 caliber handgun, and a .22 caliber rifle with obliterated serial numbers. Police also found approximately \$73,725 in cash – \$3,000 in a bedroom and \$70,275 in two cash boxes hidden under a staircase.

Matos pleaded guilty to several charges: two counts of distributing heroin, one count of

possessing with intent to distribute heroin within 1,000 feet of a school, possessing cocaine,

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being a felon in possession of firearms, possessing a firearm with an altered or obliterated serial number, and possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking offense.

The statutory maximum penalties are: distributing heroin – 20 years imprisonment and a \$1,000,000 fine; heroin trafficking within 1,000 feet of a school – 40 years imprisonment and a \$2,000,000 fine; possessing cocaine – one year imprisonment and a \$100,000 fine; being a felon in possession of a firearm – 10 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine; possessing a firearm with an altered or obliterated serial number – five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine; possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking offense – a minimum of five years imprisonment, consecutive to any other sentence imposed, and a maximum of life imprisonment plus a \$250,000 fine.

Matos' sentence will be determined on the basis of federal sentencing guidelines, which take into account such factors as the specific nature and impact of an offense and a defendant's criminal background, if any.

Providence Police and the **Drug Enforcement Administration** investigated the case.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kenneth P. Madden is prosecuting it.

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